

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

S E C R E T STATE 243195

LIMDIS

REF: RANGOON 2974; MANILA 14166

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 234195 ACTION MANILA

BANGKOK HONG KONG JAKARTA KUALA LUMPUR MOSCOW PEKING

SINGAPORE TAIPEI TOKYO CINCPAC DTD 01 OCT

QTE

S E C R E T STATE 234195

LIMDIS CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH

SUBJ: THE YELLOW PERIL (PHASE II)

REF: A) MANILA 12240; B) TAIPEI 5811; C) JAKARTA 11540;

D) HONG KONG 11049; E) MOSCOW 13057; F) RANGOON 2693;

G) TOKYO 13368

1. GENERALLY SPEAKING, EA AGREES WITH THE VIEWS

OF RESPONDENTS TO AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN'S THESIS EXPRESSED

IN REFTTEL A.

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2. WITHOUT ENTERING INTO DETAILED COMMENTS, THE DEPART-

MENT BELIEVES THERE IS A CONSENSUS, IN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT JOINS, ON THE FOLLOWING KEY POINTS:

A. MOST IF NOT ALL THE STATES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA ARE UNLIKELY TO ADOPT A SYSTEM OF GOVT MODELLED ON THE PRC FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS: 1) THESE COUNTRIES HAVE GREATER CHANCES OF SUCCESS IN AMELIORATING THEIR PROBLEMS THAT STATED IN REF A; 2) NATIONALISM AND DISTRUST OF THE CHINESE ARE STRONG; 3) CULTURAL DIFFERENCES MAKE EMULATION OF THE CHINESE MODEL DIFFICULT AND UNLIKELY; 4) THE CHINESE SYSTEM IS NOT PERCEIVED BY MOST SOUTHEAST ASIANS AS BEING RELEVANT TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY; 5) PAST EXPERIENCE, WHICH ADMITTEDLY MAY BE FAULTY AS A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE, WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT, WHILE AN AUTHORITARIAN TREND MAY CONTINUE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, MANY OF THESE REGIMES ARE NOT LIKELY TO FOLLOW MARXIST, AND PARTICULARLY MAOIST MODELS, BUT TO BE MORE PRAGMATIC AND MORE VARIED IN THEIR RESPONSE TO COMMUNIST PRESSURES.

B. EVEN IF COUNTRIES WERE LIKELY TO FOLLOW A MAOIST PATTERN INTERNALLY, THEY WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO ALIGN THEMSELVES WITH PRC FOREIGN POLICY IN THE LONG RUN EXCEPT IN UNLIKELY EVENT OF PRC MILITARY HEGEMONY. VIET-NAM IS TO A REAL DEGREE AN ALREADY EXISTING EXAMPLE OF THE POINT.

C. THE PRC'S POWER WILL BE LIMITED, BUT EVEN IF PRC'S POWER WERE TO DEVELOP TO POINT PROJECTED BY MANILA, US INFLUENCE AND THE POWER OF OTHERS, ESPECIALLY JAPAN, WOULD STILL CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO FUTURE ORIENTATIONS IN SEA.

D. AN APPROACH TO THE CHINESE ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED BY AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN IS NOT NECESSARY AND WOULD BE UNENFORCEABLE IF ATTEMPTED; IN ANY CASE THE TAIWAN SITUATION DOES NOT OFFER AN APPROPRIATE QUID PRO QUO.

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3. COMMENTS OF VARIOUS POSTS PROVIDED SOME OF THE BEST ANALYSIS RENDERED SINCE THE FALL OF INDOCHINA. WE APPRECIATE CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORT AND WISDOM IMPARTED BY ALL CONCERNED, AND BELIEVE THAT NEXT EA COM CONFERENCE WILL PROVIDE FORUM FOR FURTHER DIALOGUE ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE EXCHANGES WHICH MERIT PARTICULAR ATTENTION. KISSINGER UNQTE KISSINGER

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